

About Assemblymember Koretz

PAUL KORETZ: A LEADER ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood) was elected to represent the 42nd Assembly District in November of 2000. Mr. Koretz began his political career when he worked to incorporate the City of West Hollywood in 1984 and served as Mayor and City Councilman for 12 years before his election to the California State Assembly. Paul Koretz has been a long time champion of core progressive issues such as strengthening labor, improving public health, reducing gun violence and vigorously fighting for human rights, particularly for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender community. Mr. Koretz has also established himself as a leader in developing environmental protection and animal welfare legislation.

One of the main reasons Mr. Koretz ran for the State Assembly was because he wanted to see the State of California make more significant progress on important environmental issues. He has worked hard to fulfill this wish and his efforts have been recognized by others. Assemblyman Koretz was named Environmentalist of the Year by the Hollywood Beautification Team, and was a member of the California League of Conservation Voters' "Freshman 100" for his 100% voting record in support of the environment.

In addition, Koretz has been an environmental leader and activist for many years. He was the first Southern California Director of the California League of Conservation Voters and served as Administrative Director of the Ecology Center of Southern California. In the Assembly, he introduced legislation requiring retailers profiting from the most commonly littered items to share some of the costs of removing trash from storm water runoff. He is the joint-author of legislation to ban the use of PERC by dry cleaners. PERC, a solution used to dry clean garments, has been found to be carcinogenic. Koretz also co-authored AB 1493 (Pavley) to require the state Air Resources Board to adopt standards to address greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles, AB 2xx (Jackson) which responded to a court case challenging the make-up and authority of the California Coastal Commission, as well as SB 20 (Sher), the Electronic Waste Recycling Act of 2003, which provides for the convenient recycling of electronic devices in California.

Assemblyman Koretz has also created an Environmental Advisory Committee to consult with him on important local and state environmental issues. The Committee is made up of 25 local environmental leaders who are executive directors or board members of important groups such as the Sierra Club, Heal the Bay, TreePeople, the Endangered Habitats League and many others. The committee members meet to discuss potential state legislation and strategize for the Assemblyman's active environmental bills. This committee was created in the fall of 2002 and since that time has provided Assemblyman Koretz with valuable insight on complicated environmental problems facing Californians as our state population continues to grow.

A life long Democrat, Paul Koretz lives in West Hollywood with his wife Gail, daughter Rachel and their two cats Chagall and Samantha. He loves baseball, science fiction, spending time with his family and enjoying LA's rich diverse cultural life.